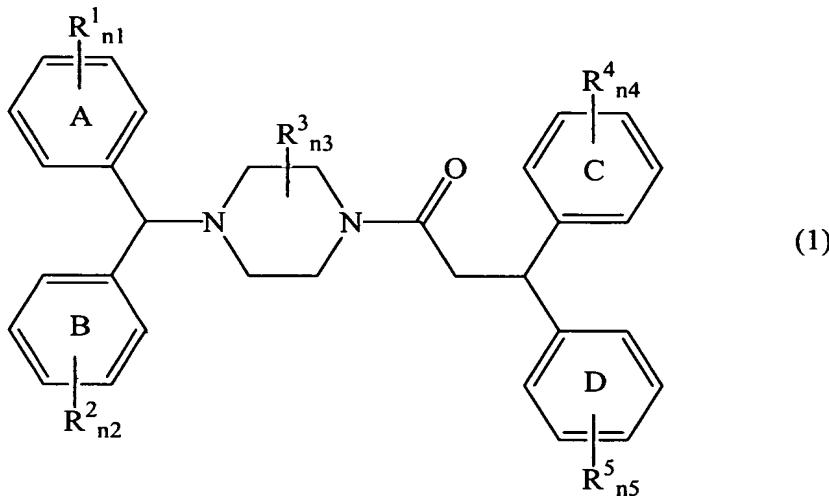


Claims

1. A method to treat a condition selected from the group consisting of pain, stroke, epilepsy, anxiety and depression in a subject, which method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an amount of a compound of formula (1) effective to treat said condition wherein said compound of formula (1) is:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

wherein each R¹-R⁵ is independently optionally substituted alkyl (1-10C), alkenyl (2-10C), alkynyl (2-10C), aryl (6-10C), alkylaryl (7-16C) or alkenylaryl (7-16C) each optionally further containing 1-4 heteroatoms (N, O or S) and wherein said optional substituents may include =O; or

each of R¹-R⁵ is independently halo, NO₂, SO, SO₂, SO₂NH₂, -OH, SH or NH₂, and wherein R³ may be keto if n³ = 1; and

wherein two substituents on adjacent positions of the same ring may form a 3-7 membered saturated or unsaturated ring fused to said substituted ring, said fused ring itself optionally substituted and optionally containing one or more heteroatoms (N, S, O); or

wherein a combination of R¹ and R² and/or R⁴ and R⁵ may form a bond or a bridge between phenyl groups A and B and/or C and D; and

wherein each n¹-n⁵ is independently 0-4.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein each of R¹, R², R⁴ and R⁵ is independently halo, or is optionally heteroatom containing and/or optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, or phenoxy.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein R¹ and R² and/or R⁴ and R⁵ form a bridge of 1-3 members.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein R³ is COOH or an alkyl ester thereof.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein all of n¹-n⁵ are 0.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein one of n¹-n⁵ is 1 and the other n are 0.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein one of n¹-n⁵ is 2 and the other n are 0.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein one of n¹-n⁵ is 3 and the other n are 0.
9. The method of claim 1 which is compound P1-P36 in Figure 1 or a salt thereof.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the condition is pain.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the condition is stroke.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein the condition is epilepsy.
13. The method of claim 1 wherein the condition is anxiety or depression.
14. The method of claim 5 wherein the condition is pain.
15. The method of claim 5 wherein the condition is stroke.
16. The method of claim 5 wherein the condition is epilepsy.
17. The method of claim 5 wherein the condition is anxiety or depression.